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COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

TOPIC Sprottau Airfield 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 21 January 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

- 25X1 1. The airfield east of Sprottau (O 52/D 35) is bounded by the Sprottau-Glogau (O 52/B 77) road on the north and by the Sprottau-Primkenau (O 52/B 55) road on the south. The airfield previously extended to the east as far as the south-bound road leading from Michelsdorf (O 52/D 45) along the edge of the woods. The landing field is drained into the Sprotte River north of the airfield by means of a good drainage system. There was no railroad spur available at the installation. The landing area, which is serviceable in all types of weather, has a firm grass cover and is about 1,500 meters square. Besides an E-W concrete runway built by the Germans a second concrete runway paralleling the old one was constructed by the Russians after the war. The new runway is somewhat longer than the old one and was completed in late 1950. After the occupation of Sprottau by the Russians, the airfield was seized by the Soviet Air Force. It was used up to February 1951 and improved under the supervision of the Russians. Two large hangars, steel frame structures with vaulted roofs and three stone buildings utilized as billets were available at the field. A control building and a large brick structure used as a storehouse were also observed. Underground fuel installations were in the northern section of the field, next to the concrete road, branching off from the Sprottau-Glogau highway to the field. No airfield lights were observed. In early 1951, the Russians started work on the expansion of the field toward the east. Numerous civilian workers were hired for this project. Workers were still desired in February 1951. Construction activities observed included the clearing of wooded areas and the leveling of the ground. *
- 25X1 2. Prior to February 1951, Soviet aircraft observed included 100 to 120 fighters with in-line and radial engines and 30 to 35 twin-engine planes with single, fairly high rudder assemblies, nose wheels and noses noticeably projecting beyond the engines and nose compartments almost entirely of plexiglass. Neither jet aircraft or four-engine planes were observed. Flying activities were irregular. The fighters were observed practicing formation flights which consisted of up to five formations of 20 aircraft each. The twin-engine aircraft flew individually and in small formations of three and nine planes. Night flying conducted with the aid of five searchlights located at Sprottau was also observed. Soviet Air Force personnel were billeted at the airfield. No air force billets were in the town. Only three apartment houses on former Hindenburgstrasse in Glogauer Vorstadt were occupied by Soviet officers and their dependents. **

* Comment. According to previous information, almost no damage was suffered by the Sprottau airfield during the war. However, since six hangars were formerly available at the field it is believed that the existence

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of only two hangars is erroneous. The construction of a second runway is credible having been mentioned in a previous report. [REDACTED] Expansion of the old runway would have been impracticable because of the Sprottau-Primken-
au road, whereas the new runway, located north of the old one, is believed to lead into the open terrain. The new runway is believed to be at least 2,000 meters long. The expansion of the airfield towards the east by clearing the wooded area east of the hangars appears plausible. The Sprottau airfield is believed to be suitable for large air units.

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[REDACTED] Comment. It was already mentioned in previous reports that Sprottau air-
field was occupied to capacity by single- and twin-engine aircraft. Therefore, the numbers of aircraft mentioned in the present report appear credible. The information indicates that two fighter regiments and one transport regiment equipped with IL-12 aircraft were stationed at this field.

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